

for decorative purposes brought to New Bedford a few branches of a yellow-fruited Holly, *Ilex opaca*, Ait. The fact was called to my notice, when I immediately sought out the farmer who had found the tree and engaged him to pilot me to the spot. It was not an easy task to find it in the deep woods of oak and pine with snow lying on the ground, but persistent effort at last revealed the object of our search. It was a slender, symmetrical tree, 18 to 20 feet in height, with the trunk five inches in diameter at the ground. The abundant clusters of berries were looser, and the bright, yellow fruit somewhat smaller than the typical form.

The "Illustrated Flora" mentions the variety as rarely occurring, and it is quite remarkable that the two rare varieties of the same genus should be found but a few miles apart. — E. WILLIAMS HERVEY, New Bedford, Massachusetts.

## A NEW VARIETY OF *JUNCUS TENUIS*.

M. L. FERNALD.

(Plate 23.)

DURING the past July Mr. Emile F. Williams found at Van Buren, Aroostook County, Maine, a singular rush, unlike any of the forms recognized in America. In the light of Dr. Wiegand's excellent paper<sup>1</sup> and the authenticated specimens in the Gray Herbarium and the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club, Mr. Williams's plant is confidently placed with *Juncus tenuis*. In its loose broad sheaths with prolonged white scarious auricles and in its greenish flowers it is clearly a form of this species, but in its inflorescence it is very unlike any described variety.

The short conspicuously secund branches of the inflorescence suggest at first *J. secundus*, Beauv., but in that the branches of the inflorescence are very ascending or even incurved, and the bract is distinctly shorter. In Mr. Williams's plant, on the other hand, the very short branches are widespreading or recurved and much exceeded by the bracts. In the secund arrangement of its flowers the plant approaches also Dr. Wiegand's *Juncus tenuis*, var. *anthelatus*;

<sup>1</sup>*Juncus tenuis* Willd. and some of its North American Allies; Bull. Torr. Club, xxvii. 511-527.

but that is a coarser form with very large loose inflorescences and scattered flowers, while the Van Buren plant is low and slender with small inflorescences of closely approximate flowers.

The plant, here proposed as a new variety and dedicated to Mr. Williams who was first to call attention to its peculiar habit, is not confined to the St. John valley, as identical specimens were collected at Edgeworth, Malden, Massachusetts, by the late Wm. Boott in 1853. Its characters, clearly shown in the plate generously prepared by Mr. Charles E. Faxon, are here briefly summarized:

*JUNCUS TENUIS*, Willd., var. **Williamsii**. Very slender, 2 to 4 dm. high: bracts mostly 2 or 3, at least one overtopping the narrow oblong (2.5 to 8 cm. long) inflorescence: branches mostly wide-spreading or slightly recurved, 1 to 2 cm. long, closely 3-6-flowered, strongly secund: mature capsule equalling the perianth.—MAINE, Van Buren, July 19, 1900 (*Emile F. Williams*): MASSACHUSETTS, Edgeworth, Malden, July 19, 1853 (*Wm. Boott*, in Herb. N. E. Bot. Club).

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 23.—*Juncus tenuis* var. *Williamsii*: fig. 1, portion of an original specimen from Van Buren; fig. 2, mature capsule, enlarged; fig. 3, sheath with prolonged scarious auricle, enlarged. *J. tenuis*: fig. 4, inflorescence of a plant from New Haven, Connecticut. *J. tenuis*, var. *anthelatus*: fig. 5, inflorescence of an original specimen from Hartford, Maine.

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A COLONY OF WAIFS OF THE HELIANTHOIDEAE.—In 1896 I discovered in an old field in Oxford, Connecticut, *Helianthus rigidus*, Desf., and *H. grosse-serratus*, Martens. In 1897 or 1898 I found *Heliopsis scabra*, Dunal, close at hand, and as I passed through the field in August of this year my eye was caught by an unfamiliar flower, which proved to be *Lepachys pinnata*, Torr. & Gray. The field was under cultivation some eight or ten years ago, and has since been used mostly as a pasture. Seeds of these western species were doubtless brought here with grain, but it seems remarkable to find a group of four so nearly related plants so far from their range and persisting through so long a time. Of the four *Helianthus rigidus* seems most at home, although the most western in its natural range. It grows over an area of nearly half an acre in several patches and seems to be increasing from year to year. *H. grosse-serratus* grows mixed with the last in four small patches and seems to be decreasing, as is also *Heliopsis scabra*, of which there are not more than a dozen plants. Of the *Lepachys* I have seen but a single clump of ten flowering stalks.—E. B. HARGER, Oxford, Connecticut.